GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4704
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2000
INCREASE IN PRICE OF INSULIN
RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a): whether the price of life saving drug, Insulin, has been increased many a times during the last eight years;

(b): if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c): the steps taken by the Government to reduce its price?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): The bulk drug Insulin was earlier manufactured in the country by M/s. Knoll Pharma, who has discontinued its production and at present the drug is imported both in the form of bulk drug insulin crystals and in finished dosage forms. The notified/approved prices (in rupees) of Bovine Insulin formulations, as fixed from time to time under the provisions of relevant Drugs (Prices Control) Orders are given at Annexure.
The price of Porcine + Bovine Insulines ranges between Rs.110.14 for 10ml vial to Rs. 129.02 and that of Human insulin for 10ml vial varies between Rs.185.00 to Rs.203.00.

The increase in prices is mainly due to discontinuation of bulk drug production in the country, increase in c.i.f. prices, depreciation of Indian rupee, etc.

Considering that high prices of insulin formulations is a burden on patients, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has been holding meetings from time to time with the manufacturers/importers of Insulin formulations requesting them to make available the same through medical institutions and hospitals at lower prices.
ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a to c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4704 FOR ANSWE ON 19.12.2000 `INCREASE IN PRICE OF INSULIN`

Type of Insulin	Unit	1990	1995	1996 (Feb.)	1996 (Aug.)	2000
Insulin Inj. 40 IU/ml	10ml vial	12.44	12.44	32.28	50.34	72.34
Insulin Inj. 80 IU/ml	10ml vial	22.90	22.90	56.44		
Isophane Insulin 40 IU/ml	10ml vial	12.49	12.49	32.60	50.12	72.28
Insulin Zinc Susp.40IU/ml	10ml vial	12.43	12.43	32.28	50.24	72.48
Insulin Zinc Susp.80IU/ml	10ml vial	22.89	22.89	56.44		
Insulin Protamine Zinc Inj. 40IU/ml	10ml vial	12.58	12.58	32.60		

NB: Prices from 1990 to Feb.`96 are ceiling prices. Prices shown with () mark are non-ceiling prices based on imported insulin crystals.